ROYALS
007
EWING
LIBRANDA
VILLARRUBIA
MARVEL
MAXIMUS TRIUMPHANT!
MARVEL
INHUMANS
A MARVEL TELEVISION SERIES
IN IMAX THEATRES NOW!
abc SEPT 29

EXPERIMENTED UPON LONG AGO BY ALIENS KNOWN AS THE KREE, *THE INHUMANS* ARE A RACE OF SUPER-BEINGS WHO CAN UNLOCK AMAZING ABILITIES VIA THE MYSTERIOUS ELEMENT *TERRIGEN*.

BUT AFTER LEARNING THAT TERRIGEN WAS POISONING EARTH'S MUTANT POPULATION, THE QUEEN OF THE INHUMANS, *MEDUSA*, DESTROYED ALL TRACES OF IT, MEANING THERE WILL BE NO MORE NEW INHUMANS. HEAVY WITH GUILT, MEDUSA ABDICATED THE THRONE—LEAVING THE INHUMANS WITHOUT THEIR ROYAL FAMILY.

BUT IF THE ROYALS CAN NO LONGER RULE INHUMANITY...THEY CAN STILL SAVE IT.

ROYALS

MARVEL BOY RECRUITED THE ROYAL FAMILY AND A COUPLE NEW INHUMANS TO FIND A SECRET BURIED IN THE REMAINS OF HALA, THE KREE HOMEWORLD, WHICH COULD RESTORE THE INHUMAN RACE.

ON HALA, THE ROYALS LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF PRIMAGEN, THE TERRIGEN-LIKE CATALYST THAT MADE THE KREE. TO FIND IT AND ITS PROGENITORS, THE ROYALS MUST TRACK THE SKYSPEARS, STRANGE, DEADLY OBELISKS THAT LANDED ON EARTH MONTHS AGO.

THEIR FIRST STOP WAS CENTAURI-IV, THE NEW HOME OF THE UNIVERSAL INHUMANS. BUT WHILE MEDUSA SPOKE WITH THE OTHER INHUMAN RULERS, LIGHT BRIGADE MEMBER BLACKBANE WAS DISINTEGRATED IN AN AMBUSH—AND GORGON WAS CAPTURED. THE SNARKWAR HAS BEGUN.

THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE, THE PROGENITORS ARE RETURNING, AND ONLY THE LAST INHUMAN—A WORN MAXIMUS THE MAD—AND THE ACCUSER—AN OLDER NOH-VARR—STAND IN THEIR WAY.

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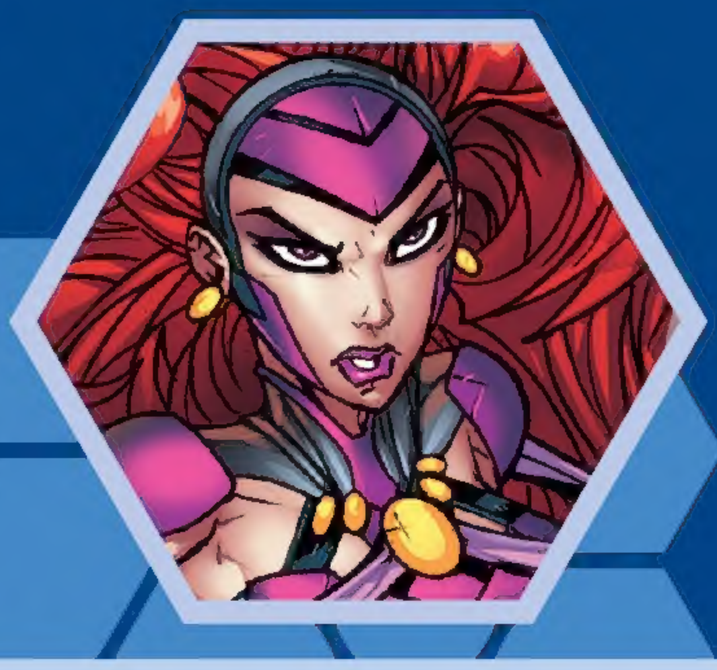

MEDUSA

Wife of Black Bolt. Her hair is stronger than steel—and entirely under her control.

MAXIMUS

Brother of Black Bolt. Super-genius and mind-controller. Completely insane.

CRYSTAL

Sister of Medusa. She has total control over air, earth, fire, and water.

GORGON

Cousin of Black Bolt. One stomp of his hooves makes the earth tremble.

SWAIN

A new Inhuman. She can push emotions and opinions in her favor.

MARVEL BOY

Kree explorer from another dimension. Engineered with insect traits for combat superiority.

FLINT

A new Inhuman. Rock and stone obey his thoughts—the bigger, the better.

Look At Those Cavemen Go

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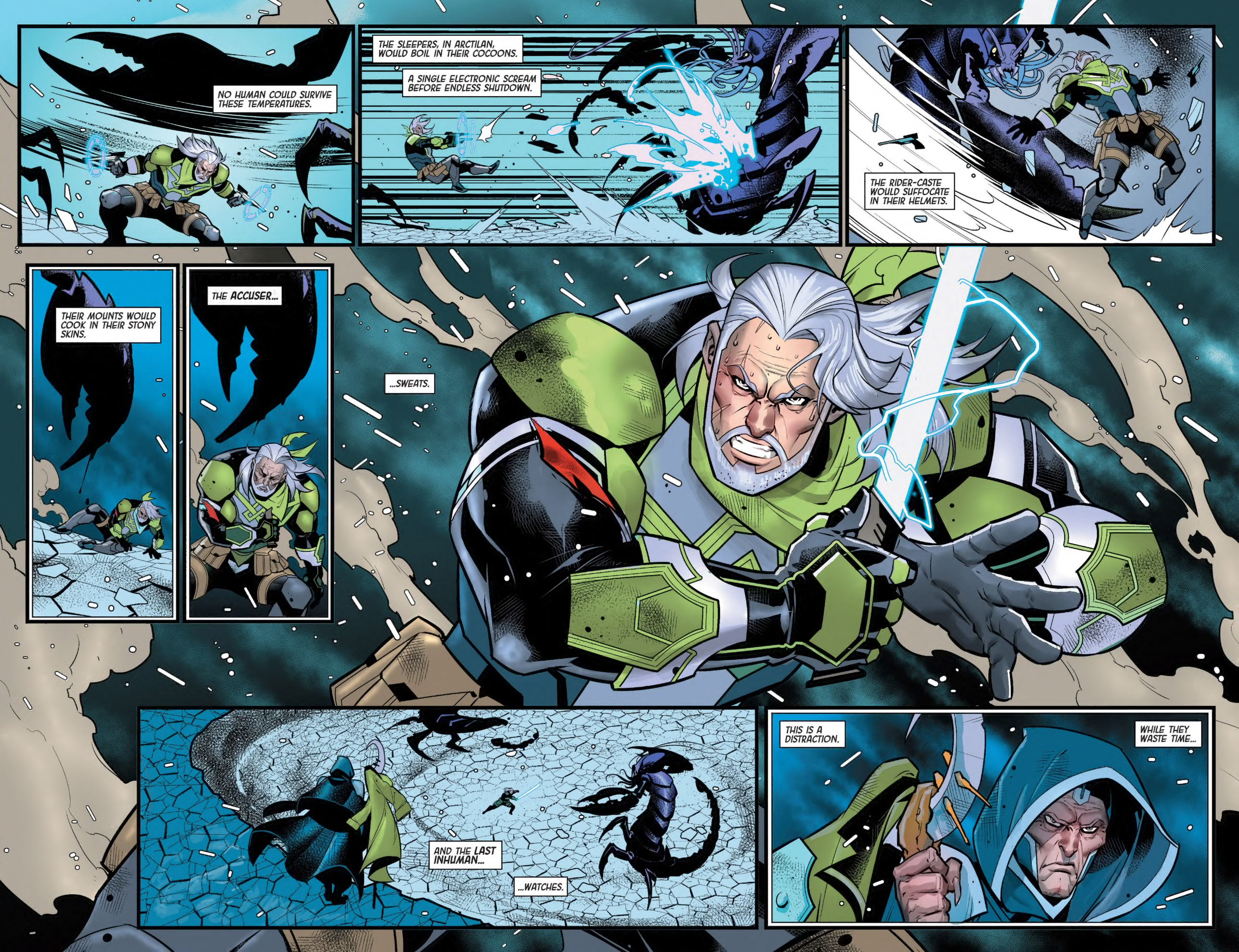
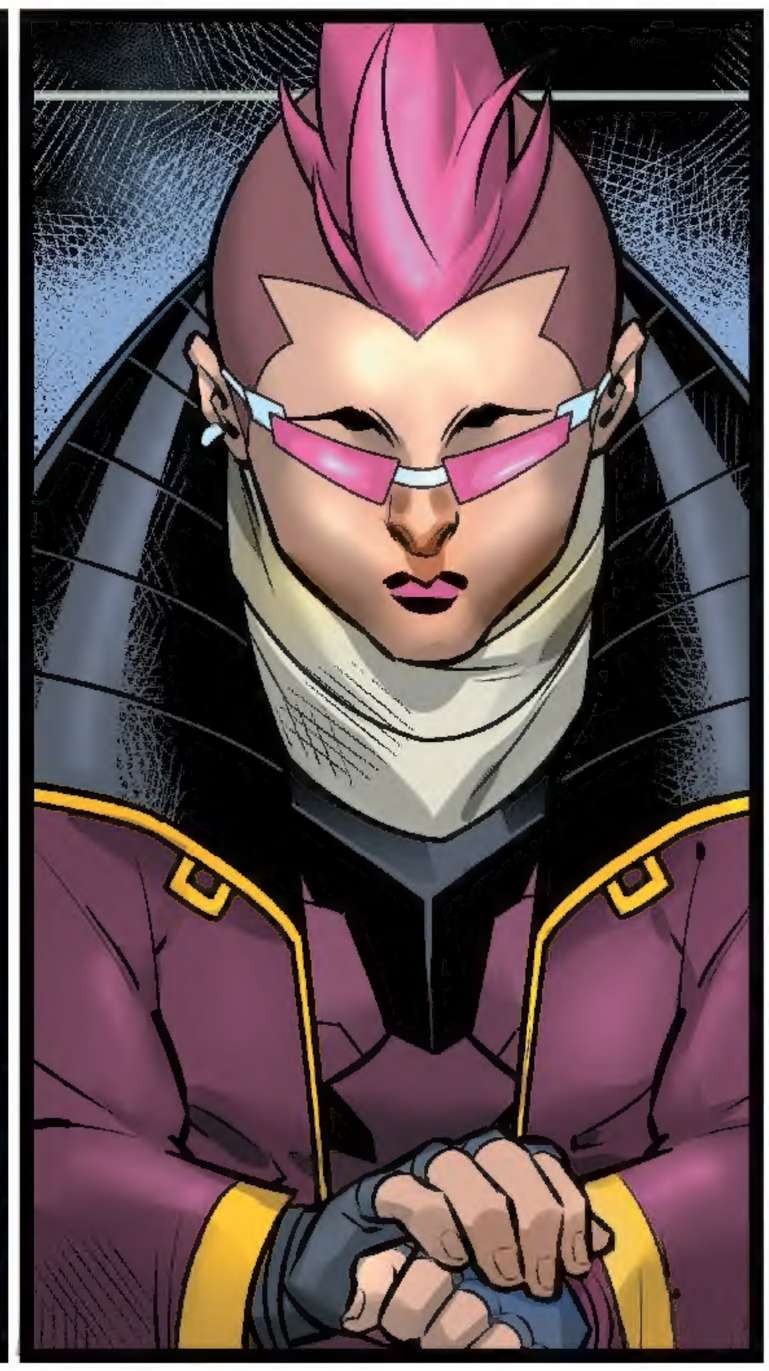

NO HUMAN COULD SURVIVE THESE TEMPERATURES.
THE SLEEPERS, IN ARCTILAN, WOULD BOIL IN THEIR COCOONS.
A SINGLE ELECTRONIC SCREAM BEFORE ENDLESS SHUTDOWN.
THE RIDER-CASTE WOULD SUFFOCATE IN THEIR HELMETS.
THEIR MOUNTS WOULD COOK IN THEIR STONY SKINS.
THE ACCUSER...
...SWEATS.
AND THE LAST INHUMAN...
...WATCHES.
THIS IS A DISTRACTION.
WHILE THEY WASTE TIME...

...DARK AND ALIEN FORCES ARE DRAWING CLOSER.
NOW.
BRING IT ON, TITAN.
CENTAURI-IV.
THE CIRCLE OF TESTING FIRE.
METALLIC TITAN!
AND THIS BOUT WILL BE FOR KING OF THE UNIVERSE!
COOL. I'VE NEVER BEEN A KING BEFORE.
SO...WHAT IS THIS PLACE, STONETHROWER?
IT FEELS LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN A STADIUM AND A SACRED TEMPLE...
IT IS BOTH, CRYSTAL.
THE CIRCLE KEEPS US BATTLE-READY IN BODY AND SPIRIT. IN TRAINING, WE STRENGTHEN OUR BOND.
ALL GOOD IN LIFE IS HERE.
FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP... SWEET TREATS AND SUGAR-CANDIES...
...AND CRACKING BONES... AND PAIN...
...AND DRIED BLOOD.

YUM.

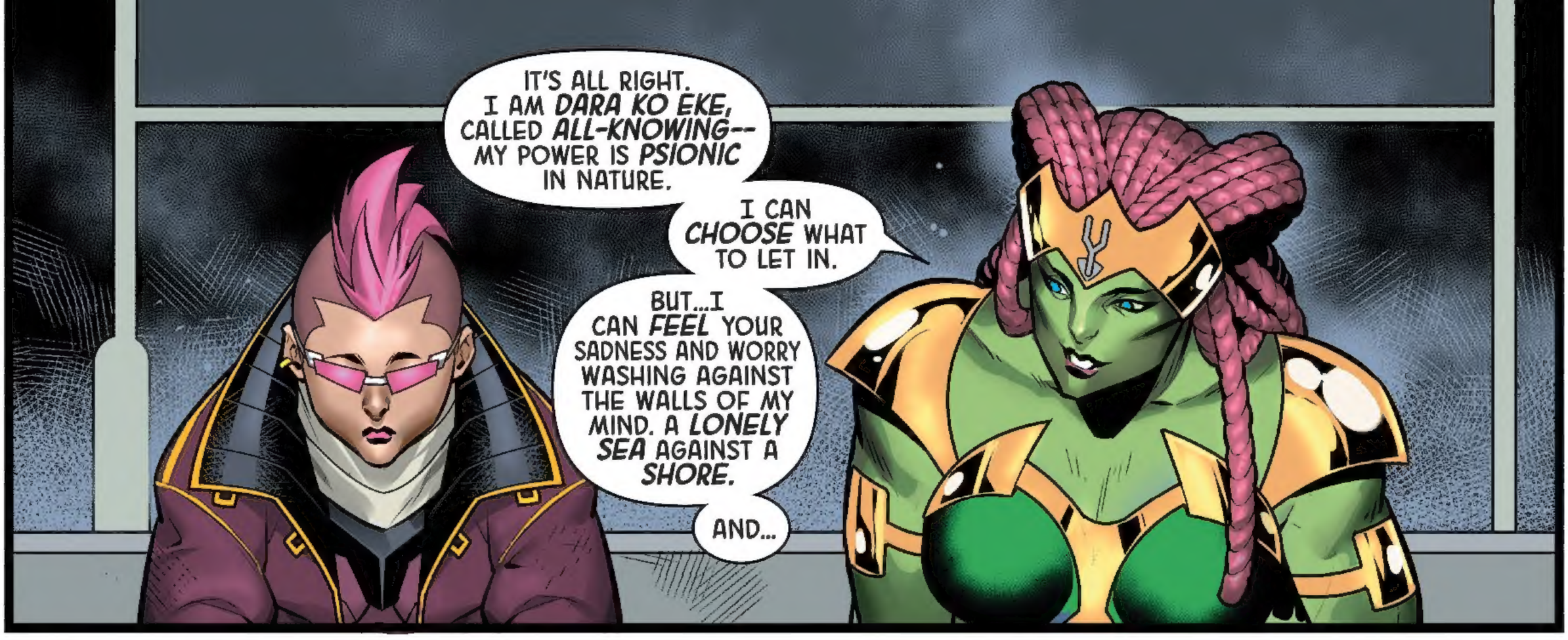
I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO ASK...
THAT'S JUST THE HOOUD'S WAY.
WE'RE ALL HAVING FUN HERE.
...

ARE WE?



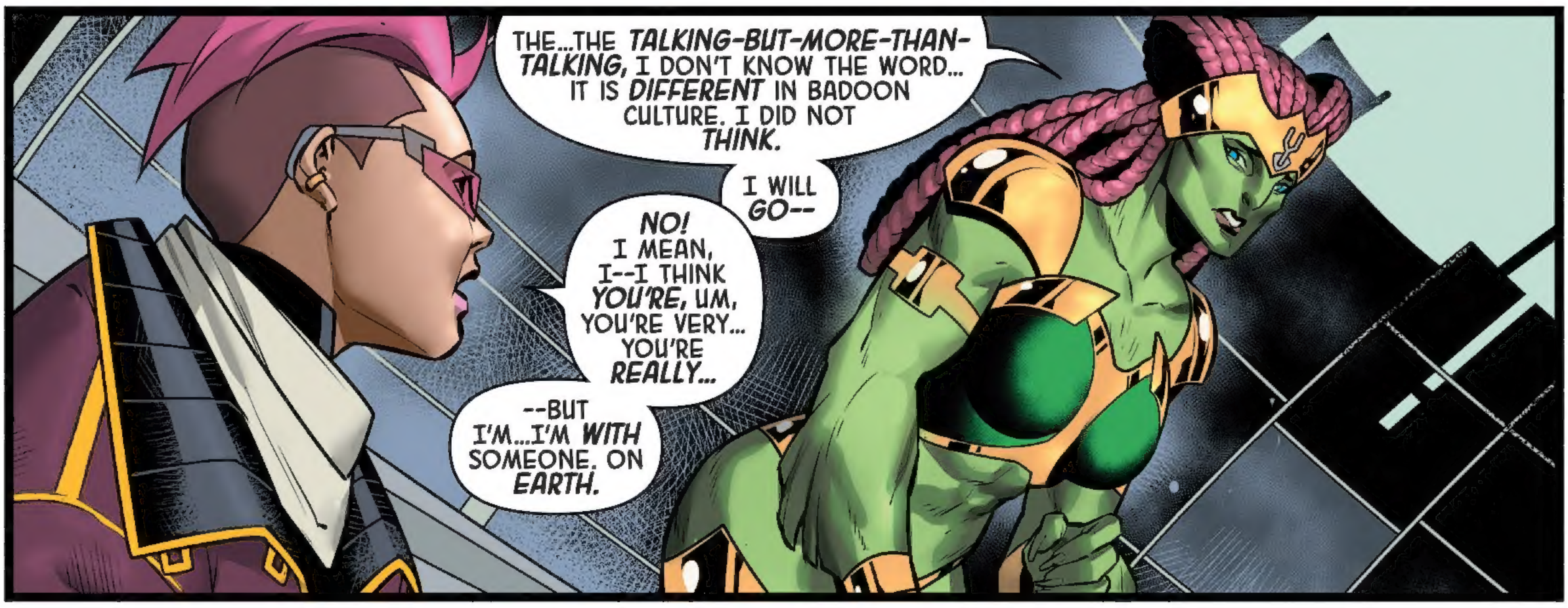
HELLO. CAPTAIN SWAIN, IS IT?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK?

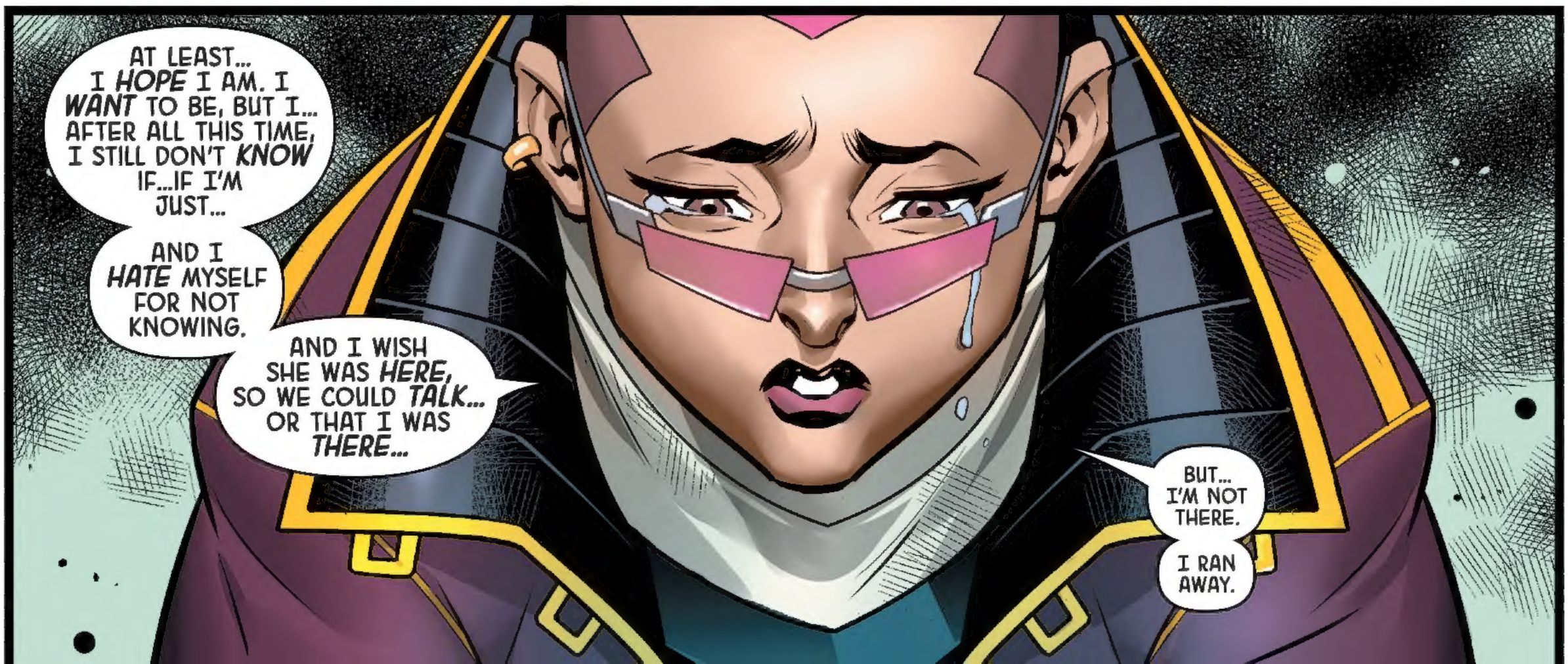
SORRY. I'M NOT SO GOOD IN CROWDS. IT'S MY POWER.
I CONTROL PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS-- WITHOUT EVEN MEANING TO, SOMETIMES.
UNLESS MAXIMUS IS AROUND TO BLOCK ME...WELL, I SHOULDN'T BE AROUND PEOPLE.
YOU SHOULD GO.


IT'S ALL RIGHT. I AM DARA KO EKE, CALLED ALL-KNOWING-- MY POWER IS PSIONIC IN NATURE.
I CAN CHOOSE WHAT TO LET IN.
BUT...I CAN FEEL YOUR SADNESS AND WORRY WASHING AGAINST THE WALLS OF MY MIND. A LONELY SEA AGAINST A SHORE.
AND...

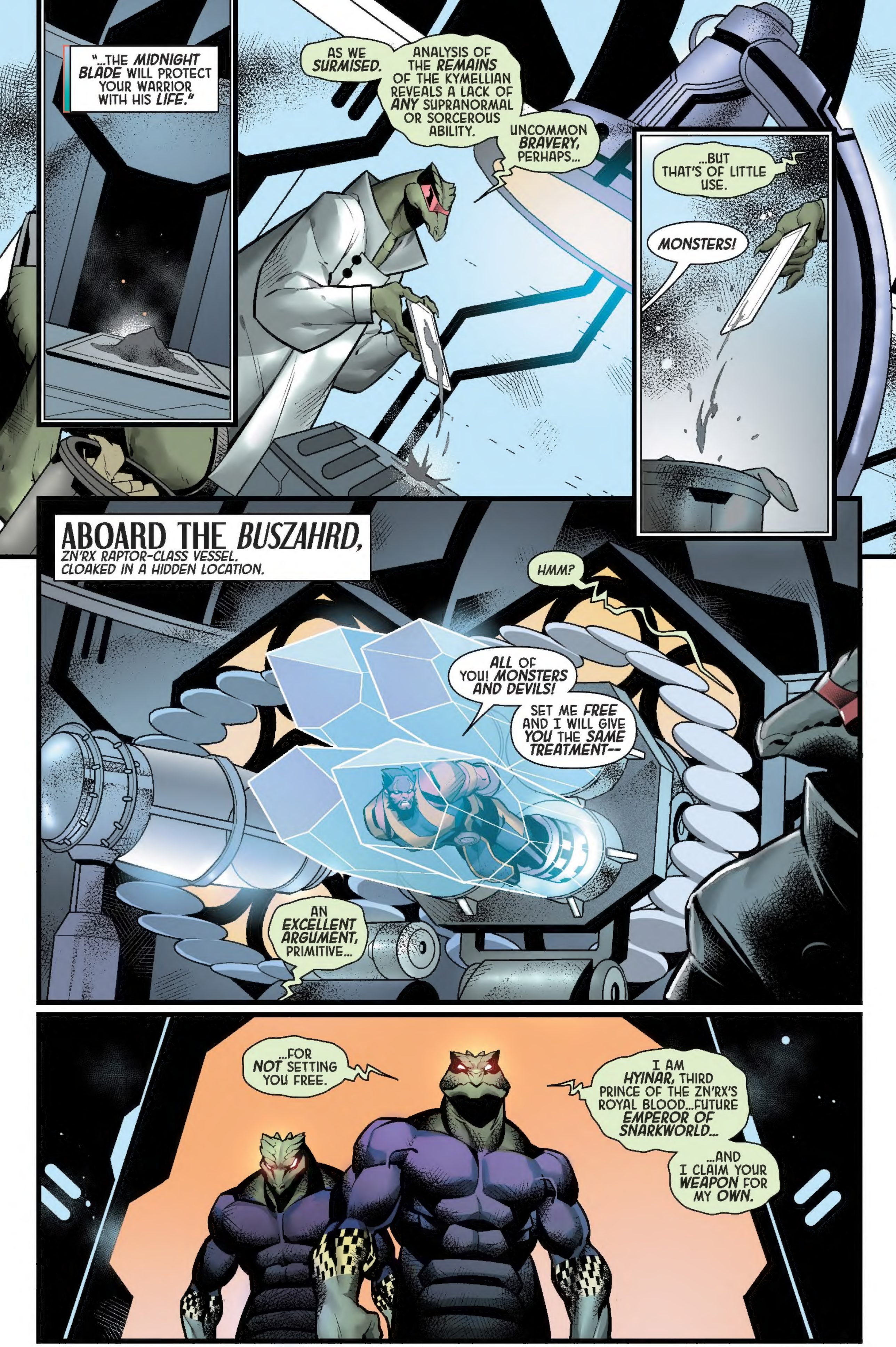
...AND I HATE TO SEE SOMEONE SO LOVELY HOLDING SUCH SORROW IN HER.

OH!
I'M NOT. UM. NOT AVAILABLE? THAT WAY?
SORRY!
NO-- I AM SORRY. I HAVE CAUSED OFFENSE.


THE...THE TALKING-BUT-MORE-THAN-TALKING, I DON'T KNOW THE WORD... IT IS DIFFERENT IN BADOON CULTURE. I DID NOT THINK.
I WILL GO--
NO! I MEAN, I--I THINK YOU'RE, UM, YOU'RE VERY... YOU'RE REALLY...
--BUT I'M...I'M WITH SOMEONE. ON EARTH.

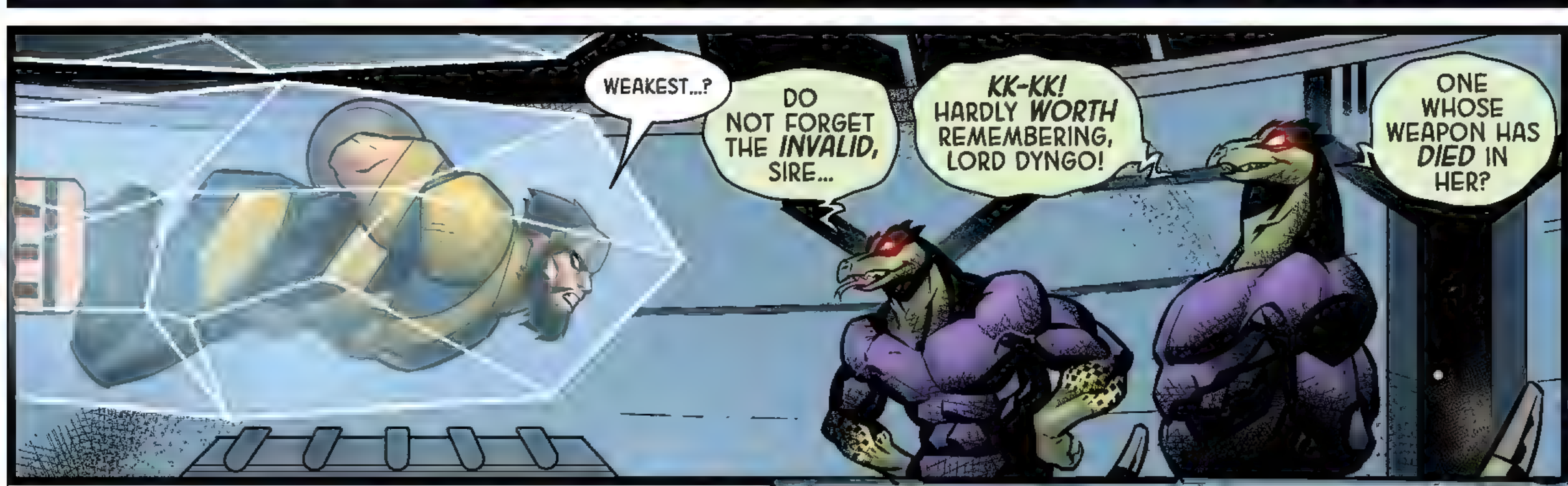

AT LEAST... I HOPE I AM. I WANT TO BE, BUT I... AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I STILL DON'T KNOW IF...IF I'M JUST...
AND I HATE MYSELF FOR NOT KNOWING.
AND I WISH SHE WAS HERE, SO WE COULD TALK... OR THAT I WAS THERE...
BUT... I'M NOT THERE.
I RAN AWAY.

SORRY. I, UH... I GOT TRAPPED IN A REALITY OF PURE JUDGMENT A FEW DAYS AGO.
KIND OF MESSED ME UP.
CAPTAIN... I KNOW I AM A STRANGER TO YOU.
BUT IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TALK, IF ONLY TO ME... I WOULD LIKE TO LISTEN.
OR IF NOT, I CAN LEAVE. OR NOT LEAVE, BUT NOT TALK EITHER.
THERE ARE MANY OPTIONS.
...CAN WE TALK?
IT'D BE NICE TO TALK.
...
I'M AN IDIOT.
EH?
I'VE BEEN MISSING THINGS I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN. THE NEEDS OF THE CREW.
TOO WRAPPED UP IN EVERYTHING-- RONAN, MEDUSA'S ILLNESS. I HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO...
...HMM.
GORGON'S BEEN GONE A LONG TIME, HASN'T HE?
OH, HE'LL BE WITH KAL BLACKBANE IN A TAVERN SOMEWHERE, DRINKING MARE'S-MILK.
I WOULD NOT WORRY UNDULY, CRYSTAL AMAQUELIN. IF NOTHING ELSE...


"...THE MIDNIGHT BLADE WILL PROTECT YOUR WARRIOR WITH HIS LIFE."
AS WE SURMISED.
ANALYSIS OF THE REMAINS OF THE KYMELLIAN REVEALS A LACK OF ANY SUPRANORMAL OR SORCEROUS ABILITY.
UNCOMMON BRAVERY, PERHAPS...
...BUT THAT'S OF LITTLE USE.
MONSTERS!
ABOARD THE BUSZAHRD,
ZN'RX RAPTOR-CLASS VESSEL.
CLOAKED IN A HIDDEN LOCATION.
HMM?
ALL OF YOU! MONSTERS AND DEVILS!
SET ME FREE AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE SAME TREATMENT--
AN EXCELLENT ARGUMENT, PRIMITIVE...
...FOR NOT SETTING YOU FREE.
I AM HYINAR, THIRD PRINCE OF THE ZN'RX'S ROYAL BLOOD...FUTURE EMPEROR OF SNARKWORLD...
...AND I CLAIM YOUR WEAPON FOR MY OWN.

WEAPON? WHAT WEAPON?
BLACKBANE HAD THE SWORD-- I HAVE ONLY MY HOOVES--
YES. YOUR HOOVES-- YOUR IN-BUILT WEAPON.

YOUR "POWER," THAT WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ME.
WE SCANNED YOUR CRAFT ON ARRIVAL. PRELIMINARY READINGS SUGGEST ONE ELEMENTAL, ONE WORLDSHAPER, ONE MINDTAKER, ONE HEART'S-THIEF...
...PLUS A KREE--WITH ABOVE-NORMAL GENE-TRAITS-- AND YOU...A STOMPER.
THE WEAKEST.


WEAKEST...?
DO NOT FORGET THE INVALID, SIRE...
KK-KK! HARDLY WORTH REMEMBERING, LORD DYNGO!
ONE WHOSE WEAPON HAS DIED IN HER?

WITH NO POWER LEFT-- ONLY A BODY BETRAYING ITSELF IN SICKNESS?
NO, NO. WE WILL END HER LIFE QUICKLY.
PERHAPS PRINCE HYINAR WILL CRUSH HER SKULL UNDER YOUR OWN HOOF, EH, CAPTIVE? KE-KE-KE!
BUT PRINCE HYINAR IS ALREADY DEAD, SYCOPHANT.
A WALKING CORPSE THAT JUST NOW KILLED HIMSELF--
--WITH HIS OWN TONGUE.

WAS--WAS THAT A *THREAT?* TO THE *PRINCE?*

YOU WOULD DARE? YOU *HAIRY LITTLE LOW-FORM--*

DYNGO!

STOP!

YOU WOULD *KILL HIM?*

USE THE POWER WE TOOK FROM THE *KYMELLIAN SORCERERS* TO DENY OURSELVES *FURTHER* POWER?

ARE YOU *THAT GREAT* A *FOOL?*

SIRE--

WE HAVE INITIATED *SNARKWAR--* THE GREAT *CIVIL WAR* FOR *SUCCESSION.* OUR FACTION MUST *WIN,* OR BE *DESTROYED.*

AND SO I NEED *WEAPONS* MORE THAN I NEED *LICKSPITTLES* WHO THROW *TANTRUMS* TO CURRY MY *FAVOR.*

DON'T I, DYNGO?

I--I MEANT NO *HARM,* MY PRINCE--

ENOUGH. WE HAVE *OTHER* WEAPONS TO GATHER.

WE WILL SPEAK *MORE* OF THIS IN *PRIVATE.*

AND *WE* WILL SPEAK MORE, ALSO...

..."MY PRINCE."

"BEHOLD *DEATH.*"

THE GREAT DESERT,
OUTSIDE NOVAHALA.
SKYSPEAR CRASH SITE.
WE CALL IT THE *OBELISK.*
INTERESTING.
AND IS THIS THE *ONLY* SKYSPEAR ON THIS PLANET?
THAT WE *KNOW* OF, NOT-QUEEN MEDUSA.
"*COMMANDER,*" IF YOU DON'T MIND.
AND HAVE YOU *EXAMINED* IT AT ALL? CONDUCTED ANY *TESTS?*
AN... *ATTEMPT* WAS MADE, YES.
IT ENDED *POORLY.*

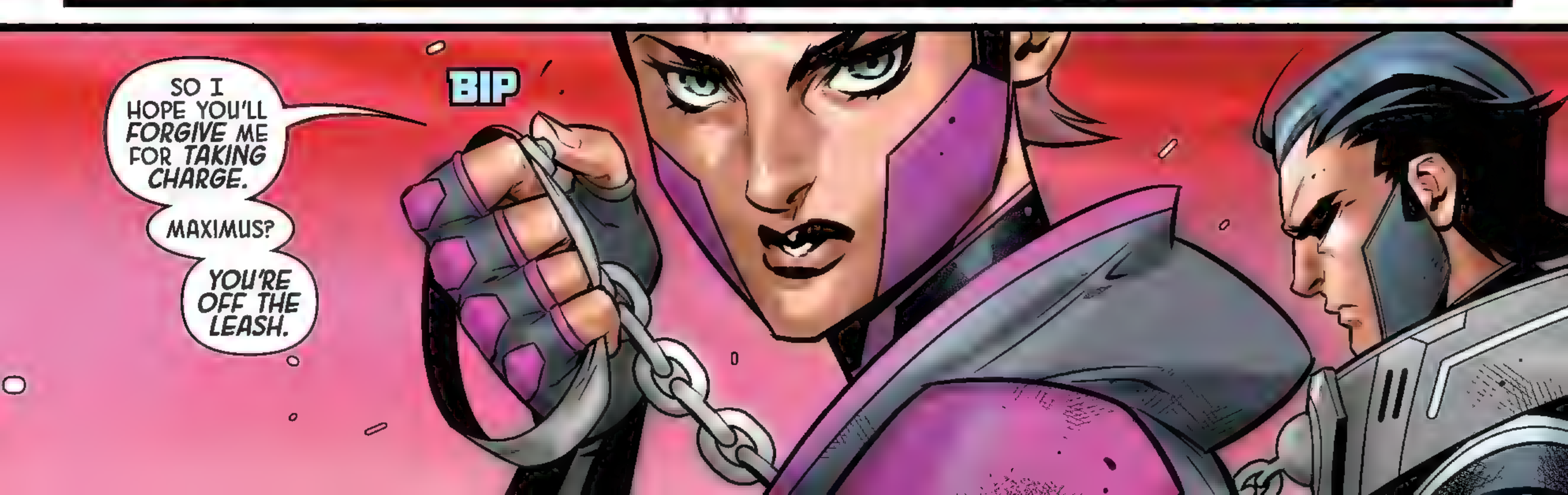
"THOSE OF THE WHITE ROOM--OUR EQUIVALENT OF YOUR 'INHUMANS'--AREN'T ALL WARRIORS.
"SOME ARE PHILOSOPHERS. OUR MAGES AND SAGES.
"SYYR GREYRUN--CALLED THE MOONLIGHT EYE--HAD A GIFT OF SIGHT BEYOND SIGHT. IT MADE HIM THE WISEST OF US.
"HE LOOKED DEEP INTO THE OBELISK CRYSTAL...INTO YOUR 'SKYSPEAR'...
"...AND IT LOOKED BACK AT HIM.
CONTINUED INTERFERENCE WILL BE MET WITH EXTINCTION!
"HE WOULDN'T LEAVE THE SITE. WE SENT WARRIORS TO RETRIEVE HIM--BUT HIS GIFT WAS BOOSTED BEYOND COMPREHENSION.
"WE WERE FORCED TO LEAVE HIM THERE..."
...AND HE IS THERE STILL.

OH.
I'M... SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.
REALLY? AS SORRY AS YOU ARE FOR WHAT YOU AND YOURS DID TO THE MIDNIGHT KING?
ONE OLD SAGE IS SMALL LOSS AGAINST OUR WHOLE FUTURE, COMMANDER NOT-QUEEN--
AVOE!
ENOUGH!

WE HAVE LEARNED A LITTLE. THE RUNES THAT COME AND GO...ONE LOOKS LIKE THE WRAITH-MARK, "LOOK-TO-FIND."
IT MEANS TO LOOK WITH INTENT. TO EXAMINE OR EXPERIMENT.
AND THERE'S ONE THAT'S CLOSE TO THE OLD KYMELLIAN FOR "SEED"--OR MAYBE "FRUIT."

BUT WHETHER THE OBELISK IS THE SEED OR THE EXPERIMENT...WE CANNOT SAY.
THERE'S A THIRD OPTION.
WE TRANSLATED A RUNE OURSELVES. IT MAPS EXACTLY ONTO AN ANCIENT INHUMAN SIGIL.

OUR WORD FOR "GENOCIDE."

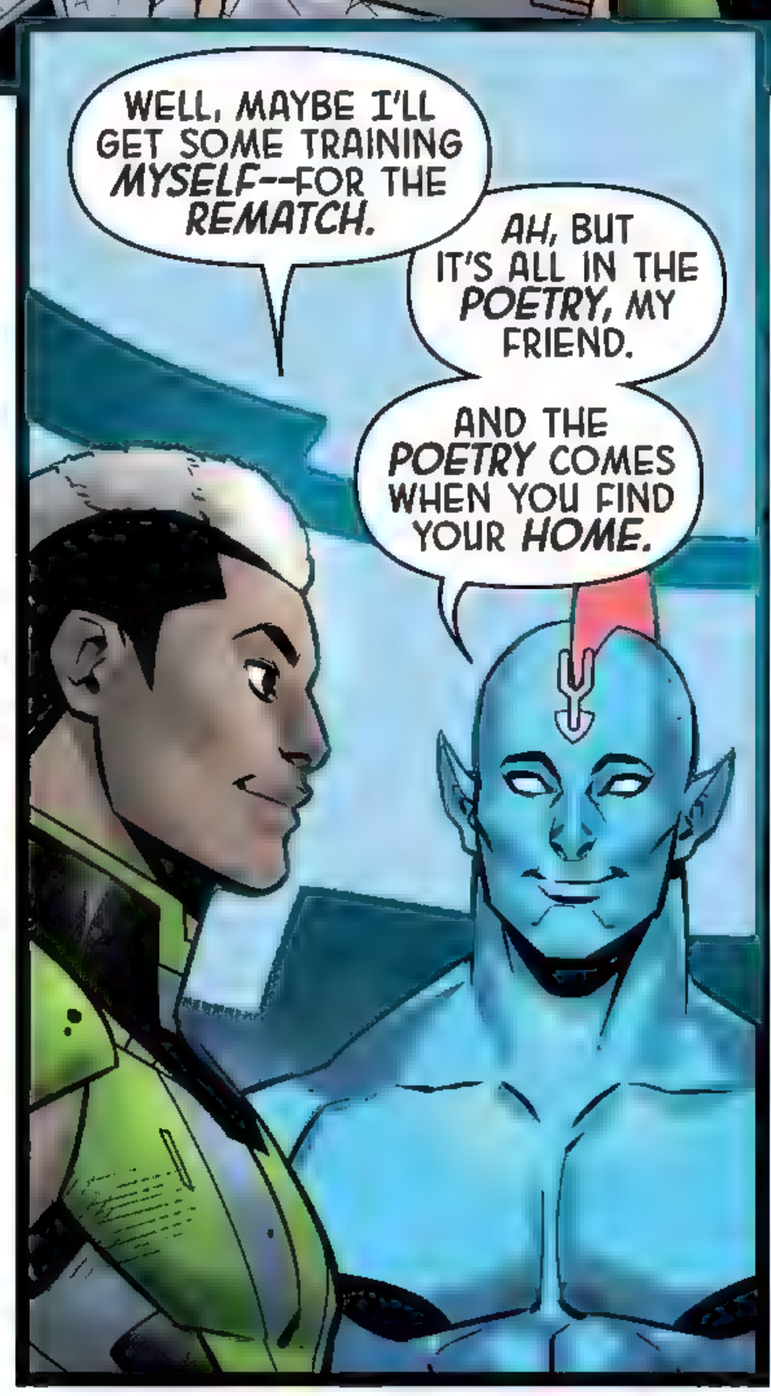

SO I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR TAKING CHARGE.
BIP
MAXIMUS?
YOU'RE OFF THE LEASH.

...
YOU TRUST ME.
NOW THAT'S AN INTERESTING WRINKLE...
DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OUT OF IT. I TRUST YOU TO BE YOU--THAT'S ALL.
AND RIGHT NOW, BETRAYING ME WON'T GET YOU WHAT YOU WANT, WILL IT?
THE PRIMA MATERIA.
TRUE. WE HAVE A MUTUAL GOAL--AND IN SUCH TIMES, I AM ALWAYS THE HUMBLE SERVANT...
...WORKING FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.
RIIIGHT.
DON'T FORGET--MY BUILT-IN MENTAL DEFENSES MEAN YOUR POWERS DON'T WORK ON ME.
SO IF YOU DO BETRAY US--
WAIT.
"US"?

OOLA, MY FINNY FRIEND. I NOTICE YOUR GIFT IS TELEKINETIC IN NATURE.
PLEASE DEMONSTRATE.
HEY--
MAXIMUS--
WHAT? I'M NOT BETRAYING YOU.
I'M CONDUCTING AN EXPERIMENT IN MY CAPACITY AS THE REAL SCIENTIST ON THIS MISSION.
OBSERVATION-- SKYSPEARS REACT WITH INHUMANS. AND THEY'RE SENT TO PLACES INHUMANS ARE.
THAT'S WHY THERE'S ONLY ONE ON THIS PLANET-- THE UNIVERSAL INHUMANS STAY IN ONE CITY, THE WAY WE USED TO.
... GO ON.
ACTUALLY, DON'T--NNHH-- GO ON--
WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW, UNTIL NOW, IS THAT THE KREE ARE INHUMANS, TOO. THEY DID TO US WHAT WAS DONE TO THEM.
MARVEL BOY SAYS "US"? TO ME? LIKE HE'S PART OF THIS FAMILY?
I WANT TO SEE HOW CLOSELY RELATED WE ARE...
FINE. YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT. PUT HIM DOWN, MAXIMUS.
NOW.

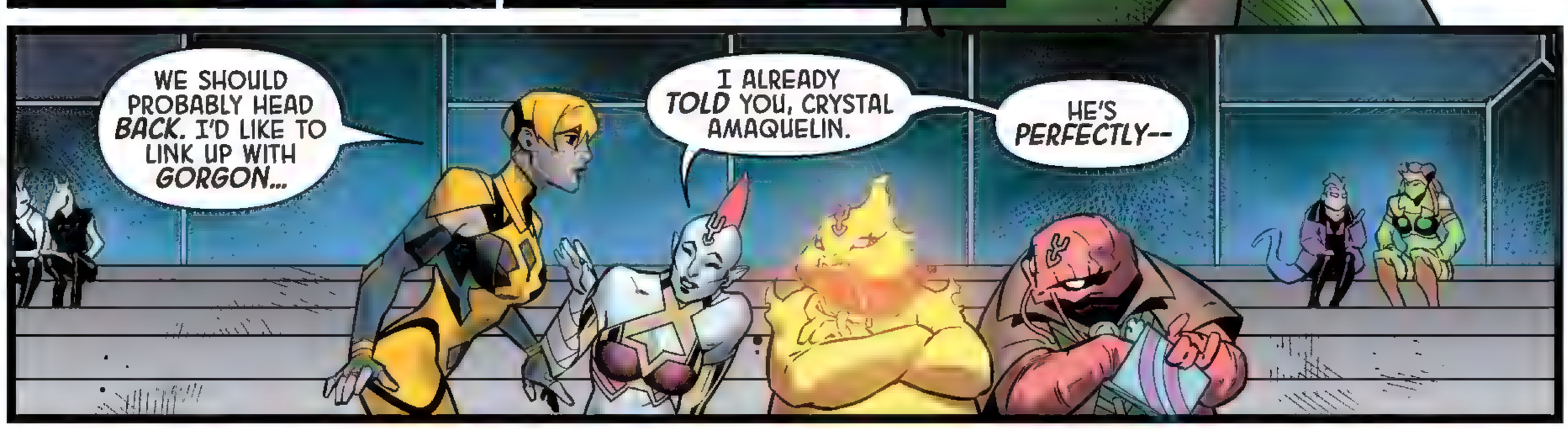
WHATEVER YOU SAY, COMMANDER.
OOLA?
PUT HIM DOWN.
AAAAAAH--
KRKZAAT
THERE. HE'S DOWN.
MAYBE EVEN PUT DOWN.
WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR?

HOOO! I AM DONE.
TWO BOUTS OUT OF FIVE, THOUGH--THAT'S NOT BAD, RIGHT?
AGAINST A TRAINED WARRIOR-POET OF THE INCENTAURIANS?
IT IS SPECTACULAR... YOUR UNIVERSAL MAJESTY.


WELL, MAYBE I'LL GET SOME TRAINING MYSELF--FOR THE REMATCH.
AH, BUT IT'S ALL IN THE POETRY, MY FRIEND.
AND THE POETRY COMES WHEN YOU FIND YOUR HOME.

HOW DID YOU...?
YOU HAVE THE LOOK OF ONE SEARCHING FOR WHERE HE CAN FULLY BE.
THAT "WHERE"... IS NOT ON EARTH, IS IT?

...NO.
NOT HERE, EITHER--NO OFFENSE. BUT... SOMETIMES, I FEEL LIKE...
...I'M CLOSER...
FLINT?


WE SHOULD PROBABLY HEAD BACK. I'D LIKE TO LINK UP WITH GORGON...
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, CRYSTAL AMAQUELIN.
HE'S PERFECTLY--

KROOOM

WHAT IN THE NOVA...?
FELT LIKE--LIKE GORGON'S STOMP-- BUT...

...BUT THAT'D BE AGONY FOR HIS BAD BACK...
LOOK!
THE CRACKS-- THEY'RE LETTING IN SOME KIND OF...

...GAS...

SHRAK-
KROOM

WEAPONS SECURED.

THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.
WEAPONS.
GORGON...?
WEAPONS TO FIGHT A CIVIL WAR HALF A GALAXY AWAY.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE IN THOSE TUBES--
--THOSE POWER TRANSFER THINGS. ALL OUR SACRED GIFTS ARE TO THEM IS A GUN.
WE CAN'T TALK LONG. THEY'LL BE BACK IN A MOMENT.
I CAN'T SEE YOU THROUGH THIS DAMN CRYSTAL.
IS THERE ANY GOOD NEWS?
THE POWER TRANSFER ISN'T PERMANENT. THEY NEED US ALIVE--AS CONDUITS. A LIFE OF SLAVERY AS LIVING POWER BATTERIES.
EXCEPT FOR MEDUSA.
HER, THEY'RE JUST GOING TO KILL.
...
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
I'D DIE MYSELF FIRST.
AND... I DO HAVE A PLAN. BUT...

...I'M NOT QUITE MY USUAL SELF.
TO BE CONTINUED...

HOLDING COURT

Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "OKAY TO PRINT."

Helloagar againagon, Inhum-fans! Al Ewing here with more of your letters–send 'em to the email address above, mark 'em as instructed, and we'll print the best here! Let's dive in to another freshly baked mailbag…

I just read ROYALS #3, and I'm just loving it right now. Seeing some of the history of Maximus and his relationship with his brother Black Bolt was so good (in Randac's name, I hope he's surviving in whatever part of the universe he's in), and what their parents did to them was kind of sad to hear (the experimenting on infants and exposing them to Terrigen even before they were born was "wow"). So good! And I definitely hope you delve more into seeing what "madness" good old Maximus is bound to cause.

Also, props, cause I did not imagine the last Inhuman to be Maximus of all people (thought that seriously was going to be Black Bolt).

Marko Perez

Thanks for the kind words! In Randac's name, I too am interested in what Black Bolt's up to, Marko, by Randac's kindly claw! Fortunately, Saladin Ahmed–ably assisted by my chum in crime, Christian Ward–is bringing you the answers every month in Black Bolt's own mellifluous mag! Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of telling you what you undoubtedly already knew, True Believer?

As for Maximus' doings…well, how did this issue grab you? Was it "using a giant telekinetic hand"?

Will we learn more about the Inhuman Astarion that the ship is named after?

Cody

Good question, Cody! Space is at a premium in ROYALS–every twenty pages has to be filled with the optimum Inhuman action and drama or I have to go back to prison–so if we do ever find out the secret history of this ancient Inhuman hero, it might not be here. But seeing as how in Greek mythology "Asterion" is the name of the Minotaur–not to mention one of the Argonauts, a couple of kings and a minor river deity–maybe his story has already been told?

Hi Royals Team,

I just wanted to congratulate you on producing such an excellent comic. I'm the only one of my comics-reading friends who is reading ROYALS, but with every issue I renew my effort to try to get them to pick it up. I bought the first issue because of Noh-Varr's inclusion, partially because I thought he was kind of a strange addition to the lineup of an Inhuman-centric comic, and also because I loved him in YOUNG AVENGERS and I'm attempting to read all of his appearances. His inclusion has turned out great! I especially loved how his story was developed in issue #4–it really cemented his place on the team. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Delaney N
California

Sorry to hear you're the only ROYALS reader in your peer group, Delaney–maybe Kevin Libranda's awesome art will sway them? Or how about Javier Rodriguez, joining us in issue #9? And thanks for the kind words–Marvel Boy's a favorite of mine, too, and as we just learned, he might not be as unrelated to the Inhumans as he seems.

Hi Al,

I'm relatively new to reading stories with the Inhumans group. Better late than never, I guess! Thanks for helping launch this series so well and giving new readers a chance to jump in at a milestone for these characters! Since the title of the book is "ROYALS," perhaps the mail column could be called "Holding Court"? Typically this means some interesting or famous people have the attention of many others. I think that's fitting and am glad to still see letter columns in comics. I'm looking forward to enjoying more from your team working on this book!

Cheers,
Jason Allen
Peterborough, ON

Glad you're with us, Jason! Not least because "Holding Court" is a great letter column title, and a worthy winner of our Letter Column Naming Contest! You win a semi-official Marvel No-Prize–winging its way to you as we speak via no-mail, more powerful than a thousand e-mails! Is your Noisome No-Prize already lurking in your home? Is it silently squatting in some dark corner, invisible, intangible, yet somehow always waiting? You have no way of knowing! Congratulations, True Believer!

And that's it for this time! More in two weeks–though whether I'll still be in a "Smilin' Stan" kind of mood after what the Snarks have planned for their Inhuman captives, I don't know. Look what they did to Gorgon's hooves! I suppose we'll all find out next issue. Until then–happyagar trailsagon, Inhum-fans!

ROYALS

NEXT: ROYALS #8

AND FOR MORE INHUMANS, CHECK OUT:

ZONE